

STATISTICAL NOTE

REPORTED PREGNANCIES AND PREGNANCY RATES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1994-1998

**Department of Health
D.C. State Center for Health Statistics**

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Reported Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates in the District of Columbia, 1994 - 1998

Introduction

This report provides statistics on the pregnancies of District of Columbia women which were reported to the Department of Health during the five year period of 1994-1998. The pregnancy outcome categories included in this report are live births, induced abortions, and fetal deaths of at least 20 weeks gestation. Fetal deaths under 20 weeks gestation and abortions not reported to the Department of Health are not included. Abortion reporting is voluntary in the District of Columbia. The Department of Health does not receive reports on abortions performed in private physicians' offices. Also, abortions performed on District residents outside Washington, D.C. are included. However, demographic information on abortions performed on District of Columbia women outside Washington, D.C. is either not available or limited during this five year period.

Annual pregnancy rates were calculated using U.S. Census Bureau mid-year population estimates for July 1994 through July 1998. Prior to 1996, unknown cases were distributed according to the reported age proportions.

Pregnancies

A pregnancy can have one out of three outcomes: a live birth, a legally induced abortion, or a fetal death. Thus, the number of pregnancies is the sum of live births, legally induced abortions, and fetal deaths. Reported pregnancies decreased 40 percent and pregnancy rates decreased 32 percent between 1994 and 1998. Pregnancy rates decreased each year during the five year period except for 1996, which increased minimally (0.2 percent) from 1995. The 10,679 pregnancies reported to the Department of Health in 1998 were 18.7 percent fewer than the 13,131 pregnancies reported in 1997 (Table 1). The pregnancy rate decreased 17 percent between 1997 and 1998, going from 102.1 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years in 1997 to 84.5 in 1998. Pregnancy rates decreased between 1997 and 1998 in each age group of women. The pregnancy rate of 15-19 year old women decreased 19.3 percent, but the largest decrease was for women 20-24 years of age (27.3 percent) between 1997 and 1998.

The teenage pregnancy rate for 1998 was 122.7 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years,

nearly one and one-half times the birth rate in that year (86.5) (Tables 1 and 4). The teenage pregnancy rate declined 19.3 percent from 1997 to 1998. This decrease also indicates the decrease in the overall number of abortions and births among teenagers. The pregnancy rates for teenagers aged 15-17 years and 18-19 years were 87.4 per 1,000 women aged 15-17 years (17.2 percent decrease between 1997 and 1998) and 166.8 per 1,000 women aged 18-19 years (20.6 percent decrease between 1997 and 1998), respectively (Table 4).

In 1998, 68.3 percent of reported pregnancies to women were Black, 14.3 percent were White, 10.3 percent were other races, and 9 percent were Hispanic (Table 3). It is important to note that persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

Live Births

The number of live births to District of Columbia residents decreased each year during the five year period, 1994-1998. The 7,678 births in 1998 were 22.5 percent less than the 9,911 births in 1994 and three percent less than the 7,916 births in 1997 (Table 1). The fertility rate also decreased each year, going from 68.4 per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years in 1994 to 65.1 in 1995, 62.3 in 1996, 61.6 in 1997, and 60.7 in 1998 (Table 1 and Figure 1). Fertility rates decreased between 1997 and 1998 for women in each age group under 25 years of age and for women 40 years and older. The fertility rates of women 15-19 years old decreased 4.9 percent and of women 35-39 years old increased 2.8 percent between 1997 and 1998. Fifteen percent of the 1998 live births occurred to mothers under 20 years of age. Mothers aged 20-29 accounted for almost one-half (46.4 percent in 1998) of the births.

Seventy percent of D.C. resident women who gave birth in 1998 were Black, 18.1 percent were White, 11.3 percent were other races, and 9.9 percent were Hispanic (Table 3).

Induced Abortions

The number of reported induced abortions to District of Columbia residents decreased each year during the five year period, 1994-1998 except for 1996. Reported induced abortions decreased 42.9 percent between 1997 and 1998 and decreased 63 percent between 1994 and 1998 (Table 1). The abortion rate in 1998 was 23.2 per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years. Sixteen percent of the 2,937 abortions reported in 1998 occurred among teenagers (under 20 years of age) and 42.5 percent were performed on women in their twenties. Between 1997 and 1998, reported abortions decreased 50 percent for women under 25 and 63 percent for women 25 years and older.

Sixty-three percent of D.C. residents obtaining abortions in 1998 were Black, 4.1 were White, and 6.4 were Hispanic (Table 3).

Fetal Deaths

The 64 reported fetal deaths of at least 20 weeks gestation in 1998 were 11.1 percent less than the 72 reported in 1997, were 20 percent less than the 80 fetal deaths reported in 1994 (Table 1). During

this five year period, 1998 had the lowest number of reported fetal deaths. Thirty-nine percent of the reported fetal deaths in 1998 occurred among women in their twenties and 37.5 percent occurred among women in their thirties.

Seventy-eight percent of reported fetal deaths in 1998 were to Black women, 18.8 percent were to White women, and 7.8 percent were to Hispanic women (Table 3).

Summary

In 1998, 71.9 percent of the reported pregnancies ended in live births, 27.5 percent ended in induced abortions, and 0.6 percent ended in fetal deaths of at least 20 weeks gestation (Table 2). Figures 2a and 2b, depicting the percentage of reported pregnancies ending as a live birth or induced abortion, show higher percentages of the reported pregnancies of women under 20 years and women 20 years and older ending in a live birth and lower percentages ending in abortion in 1998 than in 1995 and 1994. The proportion of reported pregnancies ending in a live birth in 1998 varied from 63.6 percent for women under 15 years old to 88.8 percent for women 40 years and older (Figure 3).

Table1. NUMBER OF REPORTED PREGNANCIES AND PREGNANCY RATES BY OUTCOME OF PREGNANCY AND AGE OF WOMEN: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 1994-1998 ¹

Age of Women	Reported Pregnancies				
	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996 ⁷</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Total	17,903	15,680	15,312	13,131	10,679
Under 15 years	197	125	85	73	66
15-19 years	3,149	2,685	2,181	1,978	1,604
20-24 years	5,602	4,672	4,179	3,441	2,497
25-29 years	4,016	3,573	3,288	3,388	2,342
30-34 years	3,058	2,816	2,514	2,381	1,950
35-39 years	1,521	1,428	1,311	1,542	1,200
40 years and older	360	381	314	315	294
Not Reported	-	-	1,440	13	726
	Rate Per 1,000 women				
Total	123.5	113.6	113.8	102.1	84.5
Under 15 years	14.2	9.4	6.5	5.8	5.3
15-19 years	233.6	204.3	164.5	152.1	122.7
20-24 years	223.7	216.6	225.9	208.5	151.6
25-29 years	131.3	119.3	109.4	118.6	86.9
30-34 years	107.1	102.7	93.8	93.7	79.4
35-39 years	61.5	59.8	54.9	66.1	51.5
40 years and older	15.9	17.2	14.2	14.5	13.3
	Live Births				
	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996 ⁷</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Total	9,911	8,993	8,377	7,916	7,678
Under 15 years	88	74	49	50	42
15-19 years	1,601	1,454	1,357	1,183	1,130
20-24 years	2,791	2,306	2,076	1,856	1,790
25-29 years	2,159	1,979	1,918	1,873	1,776
30-34 years	1,970	1,879	1,720	1,666	1,634
35-39 years	1,056	1,033	1,036	1,017	1,044
40 years and older	246	268	219	266	261
Not Reported	-	-	2	5	1
	Rate Per 1,000 women				
Total	68.4	65.1	62.3	61.6	60.7
Under 15 years	6.3	5.6	3.8	3.9	3.4
15-19 years	118.8	110.7	102.3	91.0	86.5
20-24 years	111.5	106.9	112.2	112.5	108.7
25-29 years	70.6	66.1	63.8	65.5	65.9
30-34 years	69.0	68.5	64.2	65.6	66.5
35-39 years	42.7	43.3	43.4	43.6	44.8
40 years and older	10.9	12.1	9.9	12.2	11.8

	Induced Abortions ²				
	1994	1995	1996 ⁷	1997	1998
Total	7,912	6,604	6,853	5,143	2,937
Under 15 years	107	48	36	23	24
15-19 years	1,538	1,220	817	784	471
20-24 years	2,789	2,340	2,083	1,571	697
25-29 years	1,842	1,576	1,352	1,499	551
30-34 years	1,071	918	775	702	306
35-39 years	455	392	262	514	142
40 years and older	110	110	93	47	27
Not Reported	-	-	1,435	3	719
	Rate Per 1,000 women				
Total	54.6	47.8	50.9	40.0	23.2
Under 15 years	7.7	3.6	2.8	1.8	1.9
15-19 years	114.1	92.8	61.6	60.3	36.0
20-24 years	111.4	108.5	112.6	95.2	42.3
25-29 years	60.2	52.6	45.0	52.5	20.4
30-34 years	37.5	33.5	28.9	27.6	12.5
35-39 years	18.4	16.4	11.0	22.0	6.1
40 years and older	4.9	5.0	4.2	2.2	1.2
	Fetal Deaths ³				
	1994	1995	1996 ⁷	1997	1998
Total	80	83	82	72	64
Under 15 years	2	3	0	0	0
15-19 years	10	11	7	11	3
20-24 years	22	26	20	14	10
25-29 years	15	18	18	16	15
30-34 years	17	19	19	13	10
35-39 years	10	3	13	11	14
40 years and older	4	3	2	2	6
Not Reported	-	-	3	5	6
	Rate Per 1,000 women				
Total	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
Under 15 years	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
15-19 years	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.2
20-24 years	0.9	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.6
25-29 years	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
30-34 years	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.4
35-39 years	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.6
40 years and older	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3

1/Unknown cases were distributed according to the reported age proportions. Rates were calculated using Bureau of the Census July 1994 – July 1998 population estimates.

2/Abortion reporting is voluntary in the District of Columbia. Only abortions performed in D.C. and reported to the D.C. Department of Health are included in this table.

3/Includes only fetal deaths of at least 20 weeks gestation.

4/Computed by relating the number of events to women of all ages to women aged 15-44

years.

5/Computed by relating the number of events to women under 15 years to women aged 10-44 years.

6/Computed by relating the number of events to women aged 40 years and over to women aged 40-44 years.

7/As of 1996, unknown cases were no longer distributed according to the reported age proportions.

Source: State Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health, Government of the District of Columbia.

Table2. PERCENT OF REPORTED PREGNANCIES ENDING AS A LIVE BIRTH, INDUCED ABORTION, OR FETAL DEATH BY AGE OF WOMEN: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1994-1998 ¹

Age of Women	Live Births				
	1994	1995	1996 ⁴	1997	1998
Total	55.4	57.4	54.7	60.3	71.9
Under 15 years	44.7	59.2	57.6	68.5	63.6
15-19 years	50.8	54.2	62.2	59.8	70.4
20-24 years	49.8	49.4	49.7	53.9	71.7
25-29 years	53.8	55.4	58.3	55.3	75.8
30-34 years	64.4	66.7	68.4	70.0	83.8
35-39 years	69.4	72.3	79.0	66.0	87.0
40 years and older	68.3	70.3	69.7	84.4	88.8

Age of Women	Induced Abortions ²				
	1994	1995	1996 ⁴	1997	1998
Total	44.2	42.1	44.8	39.2	27.5
Under 15 years	54.3	38.4	42.4	31.5	36.4
15-19 years	48.8	45.4	37.5	39.6	29.4
20-24 years	49.8	50.1	49.8	45.7	27.9
25-29 years	45.9	44.1	41.1	44.2	23.5
30-34 years	35.0	32.6	30.8	29.5	15.7
35-39 years	29.9	27.5	20.0	33.3	11.8
40 years and older	30.6	28.9	29.6	14.9	9.2

Age of Women	Fetal Death ³				
	1994	1995	1996 ⁴	1997	1998
Total	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
Under 15 years	1.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
15-19 years	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.2
20-24 years	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4
25-29 years	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
30-34 years	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.5
35-39 years	0.7	0.2	1.0	0.7	1.2
40 years and older	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.6	2.0

1/Unknown cases were distributed according to the reported age proportions.

2/Abortion reporting is voluntary in the District of Columbia. Only abortions performed in D.C. and reported to the D.C. Department of Health are included in this table.

3/Includes only fetal deaths of at least 20 weeks gestation.

4/As of 1996, unknown cases were no longer distributed according to the reported age proportions.

Source: State Center Health Statistics, Department of Health, Government of the District of Columbia.

Table3. NUMBER OF REPORTED PREGNANCIES, LIVE BIRTHS, INDUCED ABORTIONS, AND FETAL DEATHS BY RACE/ETHNICITY OF WOMEN: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1997-1998 ¹

Race/Ethnicity of Women	Reported Pregnancies		Live Births		Induced Abortions ²		Fetal Deaths ³	
Race	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
Total	13,131	10,679	7,916	7,678	5,143	2,937	72	64
Black	9,451	7,294	5,696	5,381	3,695	1,863	60	50
White	1,702	1,526	1,300	1,392	396	121	6	13
Other	1,853	1,098	838	864	1,011	233	4	1
Not Reported	125	761	82	41	41	720	2	0
Ethnicity								
Total	13,131	10,679	7,916	7,678	5,143	2,937	72	64
Hispanic ⁴	1,008	956	646	762	356	189	6	5
Non Hispanic	11,827	8,926	7,181	6,906	4,582	1,961	64	59
Not Reported	296	797	89	10	205	787	2	0

1/As of 1996, unknown cases were no longer distributed according to the reported age proportions.

2/Abortion reporting is voluntary in the District of Columbia. Only abortions performed in D.C. and reported to the D.C. Department of Health

3/Includes only fetal deaths of at least 20 weeks gestation.

4/Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

Source: State Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health, Government of the District of Columbia.

Table 4. NUMBER OF REPORTED PREGNANCIES, PREGNANCY AND BIRTH RATES FOR TEENAGERS AGED 15-19 YEARS BY AGE: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1997-1998 ¹

Age of Teenagers	Reported Pregnancies		Live Births ²	
	1997	1998	1997	1998
³				
Total (15-19 years).....	1,978	1,604	1,183	1,130
15 years.....	141	114	87	79
16 years.....	294	239	173	178
17 years.....	327	281	215	198
(15-17 years).....	762	634	475	455
18 years.....	541	471	300	337
19 years.....	675	499	408	338
(18-19 years).....	1,216	970	708	675
	Rate per 1,000 women			
³				
Total (15-19 years).....	152.1	122.7	91.0	86.5
15 years.....	61.8	49.7	38.1	34.4
16 years.....	129.7	104.9	76.3	78.1
17 years.....	122.6	104.8	80.6	73.9
(15-17 years).....	105.6	87.4	65.8	62.7
18 years.....	196.8	170.5	109.1	122.0
19 years.....	222.3	163.5	134.3	110.7
(18-19 years).....	210.2	166.8	122.4	116.1

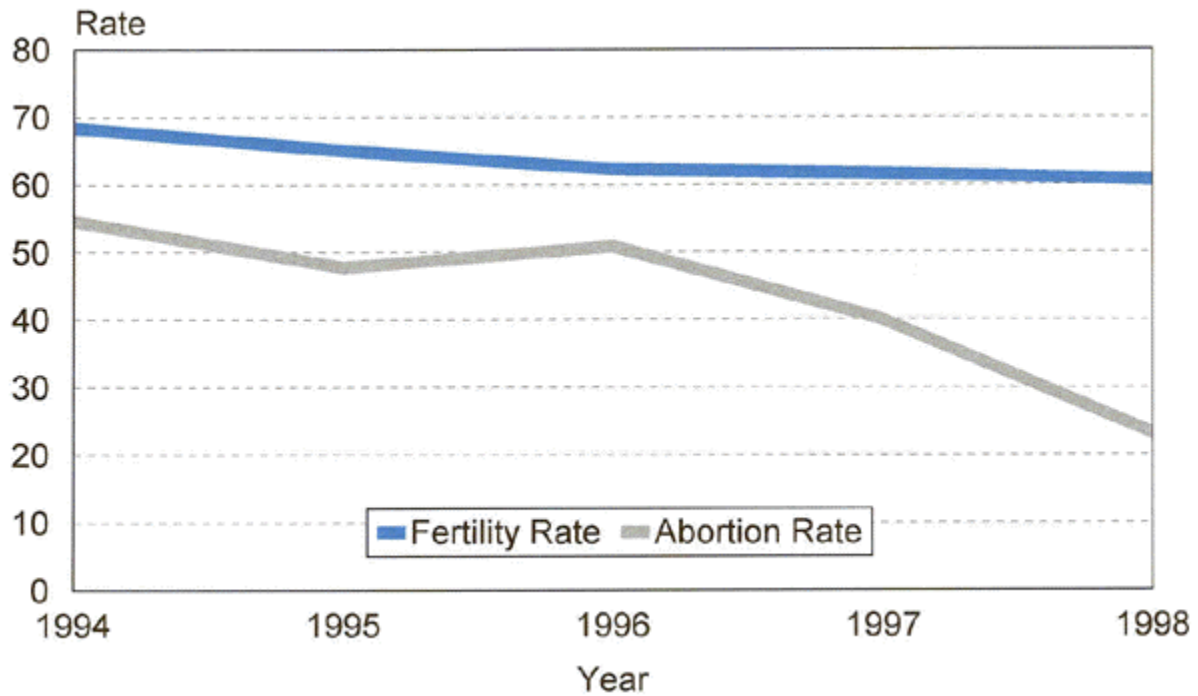
1/Rates were calculated using Bureau of the Census July 1997 and 1998 population estimates.

2/Age-specific fertility rate per 1,000 women in each age/age group category.

3/Rate per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years.

Source: State Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health, Government of the District of Columbia.

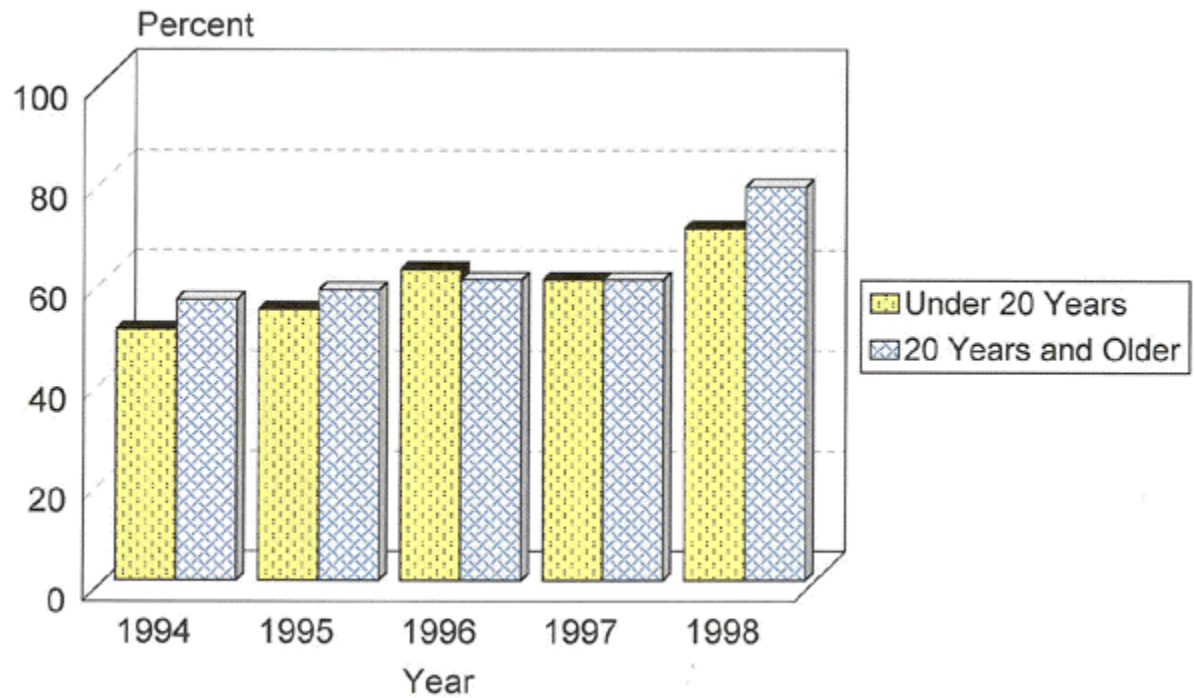
**Figure 1. Abortion Rate* and Fertility Rate **
District of Columbia, 1994-1998**



* The abortion rate is the number of abortions per 1,000 females 15-44 years of age.
** The fertility rate is the number of births per 1,000 females 15-44 years of age.

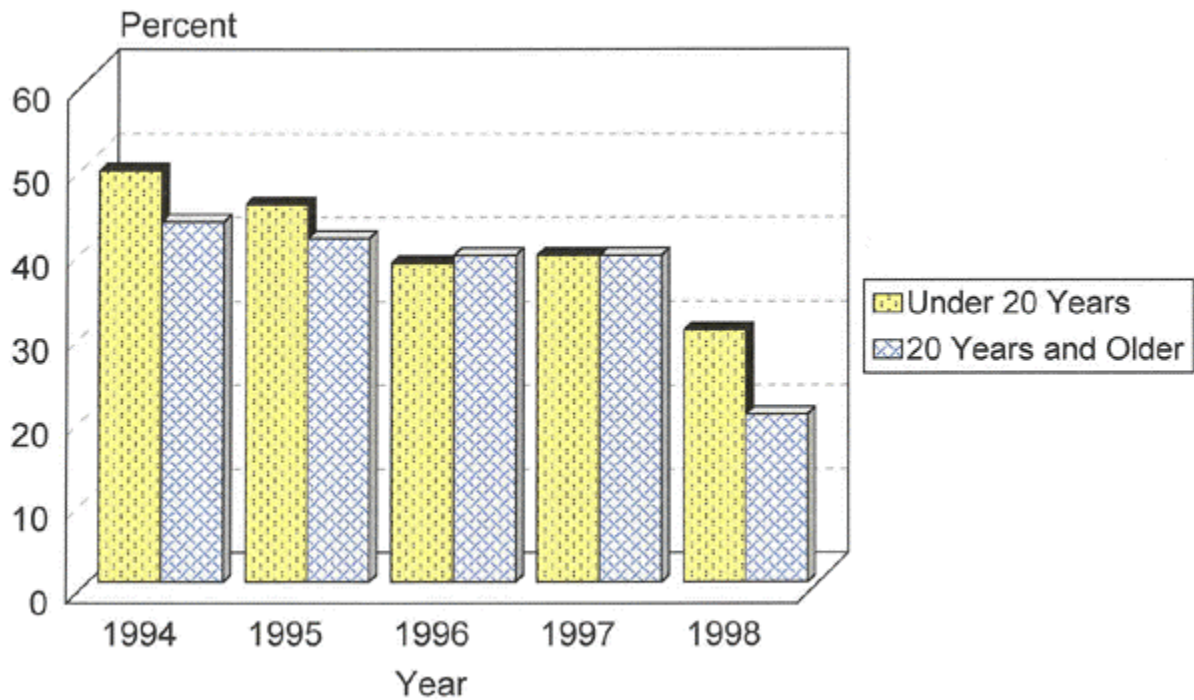
Source: State Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health, Government of the District of Columbia.

Figure 2A. Percent of Reported Pregnancies Ending as a Live Birth by Age: District of Columbia, 1994-1998



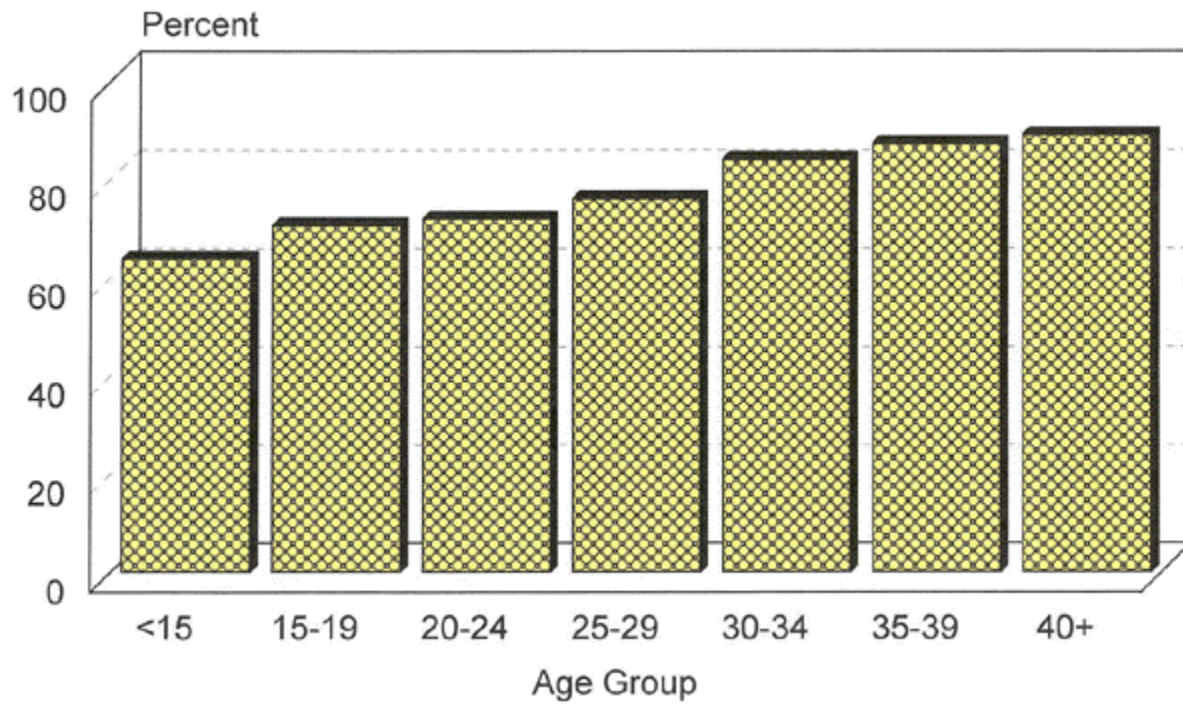
Source: State Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health, Government of the District of Columbia.

**Figure 2B. Percent of Reported Pregnancies Ending as Abortion
by Age: District of Columbia, 1994-1998**



Source: State Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health, Government of the District of Columbia.

Figure 3. Percent of Reported Pregnancies Ending as a Live Birth by Age: District of Columbia, 1998



Source: State Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health, Government of the District of Columbia.

APPENDIX

1998 Population Estimates by Age and Gender			
Age in Years	Total	Female	Male
Total all ages	523,124	278,077	245,047
Under 5	30,528	15,082	15,446
5-9	33,415	16,408	17,007
Total 10-44 years	269,849	138,857	130,992
10-14	25,014	12,430	12,584
15-19	25,774	13,069	12,705
20-24	31,537	16,472	15,065
25-29	51,595	26,946	24,649
30-34	47,935	24,572	23,363
35-39	45,836	23,288	22,548
40-44	42,158	22,080	20,078
Total 15-44 years	244,835	126,427	118,408
45-49	37,542	19,959	17,583
50-54	31,776	16,754	15,022
55-59	26,087	14,043	12,044
60-64	21,218	11,785	9,433
65-69	20,282	11,556	8,726
70-74	18,380	11,137	7,243
75-79	15,261	9,459	5,802
80-84	9,751	6,524	3,227
85 and over	9,035	6,513	2,522

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

1998 Population Estimates by Individual Age for Women Aged 15 to 19 Years Obtained by Applying 1997 Female Population Proportion to 1998 Estimated Female Population Aged 15-19 Years		
Age of Women (in years)	1998	1997
Total 15-19*	13,069	13,004
15	2,295	2,283
16	2,278	2,267
17	2,681	2,668
18	2,763	2,749
19	3,052	3,037

***2.5 percent of total estimated population in 1997 and 1998.**